



Abstract of an Accident

92-6

ACCIDENT TYPE: An electrical ground fault occurred while checking phase rotation and voltage prior to an outage
INJURY: Two contractor electricians received flash burns on their arms and face
TYPE OF WORK: Electrical distribution secondary voltage 480/277
EQUIPMENT: Pad mounted transformer distribution box and electrical test instrument
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: None in use at the time of the accident

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

Workers were using a test instrument to check the circuit rotation and verify voltage when a ground fault occurred with an energized electrical service. Two contractor electricians received flash burns to both arms and face.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- The test instrument was set in the wrong position to check for voltage
- The test instrument fuse had been wrapped with tin foil

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- Contractors approved safety plan was not implemented
- Proper safe clearance procedures were not maintained to remove risk of electric shock. The scheduled outage was delayed as a result of P/W employee going home sick
- Safety equipment such as high voltage blankets, gloves, and hood were not utilized when working on or near energized electrical
- Angle bar (6"x6"), directly in front of the work area required workers to stand on an uneven surface (angle bar was part of spill containment dike)
- The sub-station area was not secured to prevent unauthorized entry
- Sub-contractor employees were also working in the sub-station prior to securing the power

LESSONS LEARNED:

- The contractor's approved safety plan is essential and should be implemented
- Test instruments should be used in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- This accident could have been fatal to both workers

Your **SAFETY** contact is...